

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 35

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION AND THE NEW MEXICO RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY TO CONVENE A STAKEHOLDER GROUP TO PERFORM AN ECONOMIC COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND THE EFFECTS OF ALLOCATING A PORTION OF THE COST TO NEW MEXICO RATEPAYERS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico is an energy rich state and should be the leading exporter of energy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is lacking transmission capacity to deliver renewable energy from where it is generated to load centers where it is needed; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission authority was created by the legislature of the state of New Mexico to foster development of adequate transmission for new energy; and

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1 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
2 authority can enter into partnerships with public or private
3 entities to build transmission lines; and

4 WHEREAS, the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
5 authority is responsible for the planning and establishment of
6 interstate transmission lines; and

7 WHEREAS, there is no way to recover the cost of interstate
8 transmission lines from New Mexico ratepayers; and

9 WHEREAS, the development of interstate transmission lines
10 could create economic opportunities for New Mexico to export
11 energy to markets outside of the state; and

12 WHEREAS, the lack of allocation for interstate
13 transmission lines that do not directly benefit New Mexico
14 ratepayers is a barrier to economic development for New Mexico;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
16 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public regulation commission, in
17 collaboration with the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
18 authority, be requested to convene a stakeholder group to
19 perform an economic cost-benefit analysis on the construction
20 of electrical transmission and the effects of allocating a
21 portion of the cost to New Mexico ratepayers; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the stakeholder group include
23 the energy, minerals and natural resources department; the
24 department of information technology; the economic development
25 department; Sandia national laboratories; Los Alamos national

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1 laboratory; electric utilities; electric cooperatives; and
2 tribal and pueblo governments; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public regulation
4 commission and the New Mexico renewable energy transmission
5 authority report their joint findings and recommendations to
6 the appropriate interim committee of the legislature by October
7 1, 2010; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the public regulation commission, the New Mexico
10 renewable energy transmission authority, the secretary of
11 energy, minerals and natural resources, the secretary of
12 information technology and the secretary of economic
13 development.

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